

FISH & WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: October 10, 2013

Agenda Item: Wolf ARM Amendments

Division: Wildlife **Action Needed:** Proposed Amendments

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 15 minutes

Background

Senate Bill 200, passed by Montana's 63rd Legislature, provides for landowners or their agents without any wolf license to take wolves that are a potential threat to human safety, livestock or domestic dogs. The bill also provided authority for the Commission to create rules to implement this action. In addition, FWP has proposed other changes to existing ARM based upon management experience and the wolf's successful transition to delisted status since the rules were originally adopted in October 2008.

Public Involvement Process & Results

This action would present proposed rules for public comment that may be submitted via mail, email or public hearings. A standard public review would be followed by Commission consideration of comments and any modifications for final adoption at the conclusion of the public comment period.

Alternatives and Analysis

To carry out the new legislation, FWP must have a method by which lawful take and reporting is formally defined and authorized. The proposed rules provide a means for SB 200 to be complied with while ensuring the lawful take of these wolves.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale

FWP recommends these rules be proposed for public review. The complete rulemaking process will take approximately four months to complete— including public comment, analysis of comments, Commission consideration and final decision.

Proposed Motion

I move the Commission propose the amendments to the wolf administrative rules as presented.